

the chest was opened. The apparent cause of death, in many of the patients, could be clearly traced to disease in the organs of respiration."

The lesions of the thorax are less important than those of the encephalon, as they mostly were the undoubted results of diseases other than insanity. The same remark will apply to those of the abdomen, and inasmuch as all the cases were not examined in this region, we do not copy the record of the appearances noticed.

P. E.

ART. XVIII.—*Memoirs and Correspondence of Francis Horner*, M. P. Edited by his brother, LEONARD HORNER, Esq., F.R.S. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1843.

Few men have been more regretted than the subject of the above volumes.—Born in the middle classes of life, he rose before his death by his eminent intellectual and moral qualities, to a place among the most distinguished statesmen of his day. We know of no work that could be perused with more profit by those who aim at political distinction in our own country, than this plain and unpretending biography.

But it is out of place to enlarge further on this point. Our only object in noticing the work before us, is to mention some curious particulars concerning his illness and death.

Mr. Horner was born in 1787, and became a student at an early age. He was bred a lawyer at Edinburgh, but was subsequently admitted to the English bar. In a short time after this, he became a member of parliament, and thus with his legal, legislative and literary pursuits, was probably *overworked*. Nothing of importance is, however, mentioned concerning his health, until 1815–16, when he was attacked with a cough. This was attributed by his medical attendant to the stomach; and he does not seem to have been much annoyed by it, except that it continued longer than he had anticipated. He addressed the House of Commons for the last time, on the 25th of June, 1816, "in the cause of religious liberty and Ireland." Symptoms of a pulmonary affection had now appeared, which gave great uneasiness to his friends. He spent some time at his father's house near Edinburgh, consulted several eminent physicians there, and was finally advised by them to pass the winter in a warmer climate.

On his return to London, preparatory to his departure for the continent, he was seen by Dr. Pelham Warren, who was desirous that Dr. Baillie should be consulted. In a letter to his father, Mr. Horner says, "Dr. Warren said to me, there is a nicety in the case; an equivalent expression, I suppose, to one Dr. Thomson used, that there was an anomaly in it." It appears also, that at this time, no fever had occurred, whilst he had manifestly gained flesh during his sojourn in Scotland. From these circumstances, Dr. Warren decidedly inferred that there could be no consumptive disease of the lungs.

Pisa was the place selected for his residence, and he reached there towards the end of November, 1816. In the letters written during the journey, he mentions that his cough is less. "I do not say that my breathing is easier, but my general feeling of health has been better;" and again, "I cannot yet speak of any improvement of that oppression of my breast, which I dislike more than the cough, because it has never been explained to me by any of my physicians."

Mr. Horner seems to have somewhat improved during the month of December, but the main symptom was not materially relieved. We have now the following letter from his intimate friend Mr. Allen, (Master of Dulwich College, but bred a surgeon,) dated London, January 7, 1817:—

"As your breathlessness seemed not to be at all relieved either by the change of climate, or by the treatment recommended to you by Baillie and Warren, I made out a state of your case at present, as well as I could collect the particulars from your own letters and your brother's, and sent copies of it yesterday, to both these physicians, with a request that they would take it into consideration and give me their opinion this morning. The enclosed paper is the result

of their deliberation, in addition to which Baillie desires me to say, they are both satisfied that your difficulty of breathing does not arise from water in the chest, and from the history of your illness, they are equally persuaded it does not proceed from tubercles, but they are not so clear as to what is the real cause of it. *Baillie thinks it may proceed from consolidation of part of the substance of the lungs, in consequence of which there is less space for air, or it may arise from a change of structure in the air cells by which they are become larger, and in the same proportion afford a smaller surface for the oxygenation, or whatever else we may call it, of the blood.* In either of the last suppositions, there is no danger from the complaint, though there may be much inconvenience; if the cause is nothing but muscular debility in the organs of respiration, you will obtain relief from it as your strength returns. They recommend to you, as you will observe, to resume the use of the mercurial pill, and to try the effect of the supercarbonate of potash."

Mr. Horner sent for Dr. Vacca Berlinghieri, to whom he communicated the instructions of his English physicians, which he meant to follow without variation, but wished that the Doctor should visit him daily, and then give an opinion of his illness, which he could report at home. He expresses a confidence in him "from the frankness with which he has given me to understand, that he is very much in the dark about my case." Opium was shortly after prescribed. "I have taken it three nights running, a grain of the gum extract on going to bed, and this morning, I have begun to take the same dose before getting up. The power of the evening's dose is nearly exhausted next morning; all day however, I felt my breathing a great deal more easy and tranquil. The relief seems to me quite marvellous, and I could fall down and worship my pill like a Turk; what is very new to me indeed, I have got through the labours of my toilet, without pain and palpitations, but with scarcely any feeling of exertion, and I am altogether a stronger and better man than I have been a great while. You will think I write this, under the delirium of my drug, and the alteration of my condition looks something like a reverie; but I really consider the experiment now as having been fairly tried, the result being uniform, of all that I have made, before my fever and since. Even if it should be but a transient effect, what has taken place must surely throw some light on the nature of my disease. Dr. Vacca will not yet speak out about it, except in conjectures, but he seems to watch me with a real curiosity."—*Letter to Lady Holland, dated January 29th.*

On the 4th of February, he writes to his father, that he is undoubtedly better on the whole in all respects. The weather had been very fine, and he had ridden out several times, at first in a carriage, and for two days on horseback. "Dr. Vacca thinks that my complaints bear none of the appearances with which consumption is ever known to commence. From the distinct and strong effects which opium has had upon them, he thinks it reasonable to infer that an affection of the nerves of the lungs forms a part, at least, and a considerable part, of the disease; at present, he does not carry his inference farther."

Under the influence of the feelings expressed above, Mr. Horner drew out a plan of study, during the expected period of his retirement, the subjects and the magnitude of which might astonish many a one who claims the name of a scholar.

But two days after he had written the letter last quoted, the difficulty of breathing and the cough reappeared with some severity. On the following morning they were somewhat abated, but towards the evening they returned, accompanied by drowsiness. His brother slept in a room adjoining, and heard him moaning in the night. On going to him, he said, that he moaned from difficulty of breathing, but that he wished to be left to sleep. Dr. Vacca was sent for, and arrived at 7 A. M. (Feb. 8th.) He found his patient labouring greatly in his breathing, with strong palpitations of the heart, and a low, intermittent and irregular pulse; his forehead covered with a cold sweat, and his face and hands of a leaden colour. He was, however, perfectly sensible, and spoke in a clear, distinct manner, expressing neither apprehension nor anxiety about himself. Various stimulating applications were tried, but they afforded no relief;

the difficulty of breathing gradually increasing. Mr. Leonard Horner (his brother) requested that Dr. Vacca would bring a physician in consultation with him in the afternoon. They arrived soon after four o'clock, and his brother left the bedside to receive them in the adjoining room. "I was absent about ten minutes, and returned alone to prepare him for seeing the new physician. On drawing aside the curtain, I found his face deadly pale, his eyes fixed, and his hand cold." He was dead.

Two days after, the body was examined by Dr. Vacca. The skin, and particularly that of the face, was of a leaden colour; at the extremities of the fingers it was dark.

All the viscera of the abdomen were healthy, but the veins generally were gorged with blood.

The lungs were remarkably condensed, (*rapelissés*), and particularly the right one. They were of a livid colour, and very irregular surface, and this irregularity arose from a very large number of transparent white bodies, varying in size and volume, the smallest being like lentils, and the largest like almonds. They were much more common on the anterior face of the lungs, indeed there were but few on the posterior. *These bodies were vesicles filled with air*; under pressure, they disappeared, and the air passed into the bronchia; and reappeared, if the air in the trachea was pushed forward. These vesicles had no connection with the cellular tissue, so that the disease was not emphysema, but a morbid dilatation of the air cells. Much of the substance of the lungs was condensed, hardened, and in many points, entirely hepatized. The lobes of the lungs did not adhere, nor was there any adhesion between them and the pleura.

The pericardium was healthy, and contained a small quantity of serum. The heart was quite flaccid, and readily torn. The right auricle much dilated and filled with blood, while the corresponding ventricle contained a coagulum.

Dr. Vacca concludes his account by observing that Baillie and Lieutaud have each reported pathological cases, which bear some analogy to the above, but he had not met with any medical writer who has found, as in this case, in the same individual, a condensation of the lungs, a dilatation of a portion of the air cells, a hepatization of a large part of the lungs, and an affection of the heart.

Mr. Allen communicated the above to Dr. Pelham Warren, to which the following answer was received, dated March 5, 1817:

"I have shown Vacca's account to Dr. Baillie, who considers the case as exhibiting a very unusual form of disease, and one which is evidently out of the reach of medicine. The state of the heart presented no unusual appearances; the flaccidity and tender structure of its fibres being met with very frequently in individuals whose constitutional powers have failed by slow decay; the appearance within the right ventricle was a coagulum of blood not uncommonly found in that situation after death. The condensation of the lungs is also not unfrequently met with, and justifies the opinion which Dr. Baillie held to you of such an alteration of structure, being the probable cause of Mr. Horner's difficulty of breathing, which was never attributed to water in the chest, but to an obstruction of the circulation of the blood through the lungs, arising from some cause not easily distinguishable. The enlargement of the air-cells to the extent mentioned by Dr. Vacca is a disorder so rare that there are only three instances to be found in the anatomical collections with which Dr. Baillie is acquainted. The immediate cause of death appears to have been owing to the increase of the obstruction of the lungs to such an extent, as to have prevented the free passage of blood through the branches of the pulmonary artery, by which the right side of the heart became gradually gorged with blood, and its action was slowly suspended."

The medical reader needs scarcely to be reminded of the *diagnosis* of Dr. Baillie, who suggested that the disease in question, might arise from one or other of two causes. The dissection showed that *both* were present.

T. R. B.